

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in New York related to the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC. As a result, I missed votes on September 6 and September 7, 2006. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 427, regarding the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 428, Recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 429, Congratulating Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 430, providing for consideration of the Horse Protection Act; "no" on rollcall vote No. 431, an amendment offered by Mr. Goodlatte; "no" on rollcall vote No. 432, an amendment offered by Mr. King of Iowa; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 433, final passage of the Horse Protection Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 434, A Motion to Instruct Conferees on the National Department of Defense Authorization Act of 2007; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 435, closing portions of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 Conference Report.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 994, EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, on the fifth anniversary of the worst attack on American soil, my Republican colleagues have disgracefully politicized what should have been a solemn and sincere resolution. This week we are mourning the tragic losses of innocent lives as well as commemorating the unsurpassed heroism that was on display that day. We are expressing our gratitude to our Nation's law enforcement officers for their tireless dedication to make our country safer; and we are reaffirming our Nation's resolve to combat terrorism and secure our homeland. But rather than offering a bipartisan resolution that unites us on this solemn occasion, the Republican leadership converted the bill into an endorsement of the PATRIOT Act, punitive immigration bills, and other highly controversial measures, which many of my constituents oppose. This bill was cynically transformed from a memorial resolution to an endorsement of President Bush's failed policies. The Republicans show enormous disrespect to the 9/11 victims and families by playing election year politics with something as solemn as the fifth anniversary of 9/11; I will vote against the bill.

HONORING NORMAN R. AUGUSTINE FOR LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent Norman R. Augustine, a recipient of the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. The prize annually recognizes outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving education in this country and whose accomplishments are making a difference today.

Mr. Augustine is the former chairman and chief executive officer of Lockheed Martin Corporation. He is a member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, the Advisory Board to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the American Philosophical Society, and is a fellow of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Augustine has been chosen to receive the prestigious 19th annual award for his role as Chairman of the National Academies Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy and its work on the highly acclaimed report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." This report illustrates the importance of improving K-12 education in mathematics and science, the nation's commitment to long-term basic research, and United States capacity for technological innovation.

Mr. Augustine's credentials as a public servant and engineer are impressive. A five-time recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense's highest civilian decoration, the Distinguished Service Medal, he has served as a lecturer at Princeton University's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Augustine for his outstanding contribution to education and ongoing commitment to public service.

IN HONOR OF PENN SOUTH SENIOR SERVICES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Penn South Program for Seniors for an outstanding 20 years of service to the naturally occurring retirement community in and around the Penn South cooperative on Manhattan's West Side.

When President John F. Kennedy dedicated Penn South in 1962, he said, "It is the task of every generation to build a road for the next generation. This housing development . . . can provide a better life for the people who come after us, if we meet our responsibilities." Indeed a subsequent generation of Manhattanites has benefited from the vision of the earliest residents of Penn South. Many of the original members of the cooperative still live in Penn South, and many of the current residents are senior citizens. The Penn South Program for Senior continues to provide dedicated support to those people who helped make Chelsea the vibrant neighborhood it is today.

Originally built to house members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and their families, Penn South sparked a renaissance on Manhattan's West Side when "urban renewal" was a phrase used only among city planners. As growing demand for affordable housing prompted Penn South to open itself to the public, the cooperative became a thriving community that truly transformed the neighborhood.

Widely regarded as one of the best-run cooperatives in the state of New York, Penn South has made contributions beyond its own community. During New York City's budget crisis in the 1970s, residents of Penn South scraped together enough money to prepay their property taxes and help the City through that difficult time.

The Penn South Program for Seniors was our Nation's first Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) program, and has become a nexus of senior services. Since 1986, it has provided care management, entitlement screening and advocacy, homecare coordination, health services, counseling, support groups, referral services, recreation, educational programs, volunteer opportunities, a social adult day care program, and an intergenerational garden for both seniors and children. The program also links West Side residents with community services such as Meals on Wheels, home care, and transportation. Later, because Penn South was selected as a training site for psychiatric fellows, two medical centers have opened on-site geriatric practices and residents have access to free psychiatric consultations.

Most importantly, the program allows seniors to continue living in their homes as part of the Penn South community. This chance is vital to hundreds of long-time residents, especially at a time when financial concerns and high real estate costs are forcing many of New York City's seniors out of their apartments.

Again, I commend the Penn South Program for Seniors for its tireless support for the generation of New Yorkers who brought Chelsea back to life.

TRIBUTE TO MIDDLE VALLEY CHURCH OF GOD

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Middle Valley Church of God in Hixson, TN, and join them in celebrating 60 years of community service on November 1, 2006.

In 1946, 17 devoted charter members established Middle Valley Church of God under the leadership of L.W. Ledbetter who served as the first pastor. Within a year of its organization, charter members built the first church on that site and held the first service there on July 12, 1947. Since then, 19 pastors have served this church, including current pastor Mitch McClure, the church has undergone major renovations, and the congregation has grown to 250 members including the only surviving charter member, Ruth Underwood Porter.

For the last 60 years, Middle Valley Church of God has focused on community ministry.

They have developed partnerships with Memorial North Park Hospital, Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Angel Food Ministries, Ganns Middle Valley Elementary School, Smokey Mountain Children's Home, Church of God Chaplains Commission, Church of God World Missions, Operation Christmas Child, and various other organizations. In addition, the church hosts a grief support group through Legacy Funeral Services and serves as a voting precinct for the Hamilton County Election Commission. They soon hope to host a community meeting to address the methamphetamine crisis our region is currently battling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking the congregation of Middle Valley Church of God and Pastor Mitch McClure for 60 years of commitment to their faith and service to the local community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK
FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONT-
GOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCA-
SION OF ITS 15TH ANNUAL CON-
FERENCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my appreciation for the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County, Maryland. The Task Force is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides crucial services such as mentor training, volunteer mentor recruitment, and organizational and technical support to community organizations and institutions that work to develop mentoring programs.

For over 15 years the Task Force has been a pillar of support for at-risk youth in Montgomery County. It has joined us in the battle against gang-related violence through its day-to-day efforts and its upcoming annual conference entitled "Challenging the Gang Lifestyle—Strategies for Prevention." The conference will be held on the Rockville Campus of Johns Hopkins University on October 12, 2006.

Thanks to the tireless and steadfast efforts of the Task Force on Mentoring, many of Montgomery County's children and adolescents have been given a real opportunity to become positive, active, and socially conscious citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its fifteenth annual conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
SKIVINGTON, SR., AND WILLIAM
SKIVINGTON, JR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both William Skivington, Sr., and William Skivington, Jr., for their service in the United States Armed Forces. William, Sr., and

William, Jr., are being honored today at Nellis Air Force Base as part of the 2006 POW/MIA National Recognition Day ceremonies.

Private First Class William Skivington, Jr., or "Skip" as most referred to him, disappeared on Mother's Day in 1968 during a ground battle near the Laotian border. Thirty-eight years after being declared missing-in-action, his remains have finally been returned to his family. A graduate of Western High School, William, Jr., was presumed killed or captured after his observation post at Kham Duc was overrun by a brigade of North Vietnamese soldiers and Viet Cong. For his bravery and service William, Jr., was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and a number of medals from the Government of Vietnam, he will be laid to rest with his fellow American heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

William, Jr., learned the value and honor of service from his father, William, Sr., who served our country with bravery and nobility in the European Theater during World War II. For his valor, William, Sr., was highly also decorated. I applaud Bill not only for his service to this country, but also for his support for all prisoners of war and missing in action and their families, and his dedication to his son, William, Jr. He is currently raising money to preserve an olive tree, The Freedom Tree, which was planted in 1972 and dedicated to his son, and all POW/MIA.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor William Skivington, Sr., and William Skivington, Jr. Their service in our Nation's armed services is admirable and shows that they are both true patriots and American heroes.

HONORING NATIONAL
GRANDPARENTS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Grandparents Day. Designated as the first Sunday following Labor Day of every year, Grandparents Day began in 1979 by a proclamation from President Jimmy Carter. Unfortunately the vital work of grandparents frequently goes unrecognized and underappreciated. Not only do grandparents provide ties to our past, they often times provide care to the Nation's children.

Grandparents make up 5.7 million households living with over 6.1 million children, evidence that many of these grandparents are often times caring for more than one child. It is important to note that 42 percent of grandparent caregivers are the sole providers for the most basic needs of one or more of the children in their custody. Alarming, 35.8 percent of grandchildren under the age of 18 live in homes with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or other form of public assistance, and 460,000 of these grandparent led households fall below the poverty line.

Chicago, alone, is the home to three of the top ten congressional districts for children living in the homes of grandparents or other relatives. In my congressional district there are 23,397 grandparents living with grandchildren and over ten thousand grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren's needs; indeed the 7th District of Illinois, my congres-

sional district, has the highest percentage of children living in kinship care in the entire Nation. Not only does my district have the highest incidence of grandparent-headed households in the Nation, it also has a disproportionate number of African American grandparent caregivers, around 82 percent of all grandparent-headed households. It is an unfortunate fact that the problem of grandparent-headed households disproportionately affects African-American grandparents who serve as kinship care providers at higher rates than other racial/ethnic groups; a fact that federal policies need to understand and address.

B.C. Forbes said, "Upon our children—how they are taught—rests the fate—or fortune—of tomorrow's world." The fate of our children and their future lies with the millions of grandparents who tirelessly raise their grandchildren. Grandparent-headed households are an unrelenting force on our Nation's children and deserve our gratitude and support.

FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA CON-
GRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I fully support this legislation to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. His Holiness is a spiritual beacon for thousands, and he has traveled the world to develop common ground among different faiths. He stands for and embodies peace and harmony.

I also honor the Dalai Lama for his continuing work to expand freedoms for the Tibetan people. Under Chinese rule, the human rights situation in Tibet is reprehensible—religious and political freedoms are severely curtailed and thousands of Tibetans have died. Practicing compassion and non-violence, the Dalai Lama has met with world leaders and has attempted to engage the Chinese government to reach a solution that will give freedom to his people. Regrettably, the Chinese government has been stubborn in its resistance, but I hope they will soon have a change of mind and heart about the situation in Tibet.

As a spiritual force and as a head of state, the Dalai Lama shows us all the meaning of peace and compassion. He deserves this honor, and I thank the leadership for bringing the bill before us.

"ART ON LABELS" CONTEST
WINNERS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two outstanding young students who live and go to school in my district in Houston, Texas. Alejandra Garcia, 10, of Crockett Elementary School and Alina Arevalo, 8, of Sherman Elementary School recently won a national art competition in support of afterschool programs called the